



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

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June 24, 2002

Reply To
Attn Of: ECL-115

Norm Day
Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests
215 Melody Lane
Wenatchee, Washington 98801

Dear Mr. Day:

As requested, please find enclosed copies of the Lower Pend Oreille River Mines and Mills Preliminary Assessments and Site Investigations Report, dated April 2002. The report was prepared by Ecology and Environment, Inc., an authorized contractor for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

In relation to EPA's ongoing investigation of hazardous substance contamination at the northern reaches of the upper Columbia River, we have completed the assessment of twenty-one (21) mine and mill sites in Pend Oreille County, Washington. A summary of the findings for each of the mine and mill sites visited can be found in Sections 6 and 8 of the enclosed report.

Of the 21 mine/mill sites visited sampling was conducted at five sites. Namely the Blue Bucket Mine, Oriole Mine, Grandview Mine, Josephine Mine, and the Pend Oreille Mine/Mill. At the Blue Bucket Mine, waste rock was observed to be a potential source of contamination to a nearby creek. Follow-up actions by the property owner will include revegetation of the waste rock pile and possible diversion of surface water drainage. At the Oriole Mine site, waste rock piles were observed to be a potential source of contamination to nearby surface water. Based on discussions between EPA and Jake Jakabowsky of the USDoI-Bureau of Land Management, follow-up activities by BLM will include a site visit and an assessment of the threats posed by contaminant sources to potential receptors. The findings associated with the Josephine Mine, Grandview Mine/Mill and Pend Oreille Mine/Mill are currently being evaluated by the Agency.

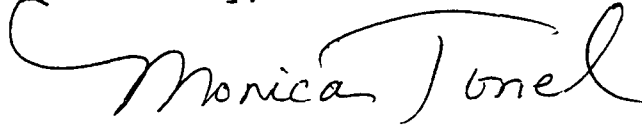
A list of the 16 mine sites where EPA has determined that no further action under the federal Superfund program is necessary can be found on page 8-5 of the enclosed report.



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Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (206) 553-0323.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monica Tonel". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Monica Tonel
Site Assessment Manager

cc: Enclosure